



## Projectively flat exponential Finsler metric\*

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**Abstract:** In this paper, we study a class of Finsler metric in the form  $F = \alpha \exp(\beta/\alpha) + \varepsilon\beta$ , where  $\alpha$  is a Riemannian metric and  $\beta$  is a 1-form,  $\varepsilon$  is a constant. We call  $F$  exponential Finsler metric. We proved that exponential Finsler metric  $F$  is locally projectively flat if and only if  $\alpha$  is projectively flat and  $\beta$  is parallel with respect to  $\alpha$ . Moreover, we proved that the Douglas tensor of exponential Finsler metric  $F$  vanishes if and only if  $\beta$  is parallel with respect to  $\alpha$ . And from this fact, we get that if exponential Finsler metric  $F$  is the Douglas metric, then  $F$  is not only a Berwald metric, but also a Landsberg metric.

**Key words:** Exponential Finsler metric, Projectively flat,  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric, Douglas tensor

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### INTRODUCTION

One century ago, Hilbert announced his famous 23 problems. The Hilbert's Fourth Problem is to characterize the (not-necessarily-reversible) distance functions on an open subset in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  such that straight lines are shortest paths. Distance functions induced by a Finsler metric are regarded as smooth ones. Thus Hilbert's Fourth Problem in the smooth case is to characterize Finsler metric on an open subset in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  whose geodesics are straight lines. Finsler metric on an open domain in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with this property are said to be projectively flat. Hamel (1993) first found a simple system of PDE's to characterize projectively flat Finsler metric on an open subset in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . That is, a Finsler metric  $F = F(x, y)$  on an open subset in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is projectively flat if and only if it satisfies the following partial differential equations

$$F_{x^k y^i} y^k = F_{x^i}. \quad (1)$$

It is an important problem in Finsler geometry to

study and characterize projectively flat Finsler metric on an open domain in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . This problem is very difficult for general Finsler metric. Shen (2003) observed that a Randers metric  $F = \alpha + \beta$  is locally projectively flat if and only if  $\alpha$  is locally projectively flat and  $\beta$  is closed. This fact is a direct consequence of Bácsó-Matsumoto's theorem on Douglas metrics (Bácsó and Matsumoto, 1997). Shen and Civi Yildirim (2005) studied the locally projectively flat metric in the form  $F = (\alpha + \beta)^2 / \alpha$ . Senarath and Thornley (2004) gave an equation in local coordinates that characterizes projectively flat Finsler metric in the form  $F = (\alpha + \beta)^2 / \alpha$ . These are some special forms of  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric (see Section 2).

A natural problem is to study and characterize all  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metrics which are projectively flat. In general, this is very complicated. The first step for us is to study some special  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metrics such as

$$F = \alpha \phi(s), \quad s = \beta / \alpha,$$

where  $\phi(s) = \exp(s) + \varepsilon s$ ,  $\varepsilon$  is a constant. We call  $F$  exponential Finsler metric.

In this paper, we shall first prove the following:

**Theorem 1** Let  $F = \alpha \exp(\beta/\alpha) + \varepsilon\beta$  be a Finsler met-

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ric on a manifold  $M$ .  $F$  is locally projectively flat if and only if the following conditions hold:

- (1)  $\beta$  is parallel with respect to  $\alpha$ ;
- (2)  $\alpha$  is locally projectively flat. That is,  $\alpha$  is of constant curvature.

We say a Finsler metric on an open domain in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is “trivial”, if it satisfies the conclusion of Theorem 1. Thus the above theorem tells us that in the class of exponential Finsler metric, there is no non-trivial projectively flat metrics.

A theorem due to Douglas states that a Finsler metric  $F$  is projectively flat if and only if two special curvature tensors are zero. The first is the Douglas tensor. The second is the projective Weyl tensor for  $n \geq 3$ , and the Berwald-Weyl tensor for  $n=2$ . It is known that the projective Weyl tensor vanishes if and only if the flag curvature of  $F$  has no dependence on the transverse edges (but can possibly depend on the position  $x$  and the flagpole  $y$ ). If the Douglas tensor of  $F$  vanishes, we call  $F$  a Douglas metric. Bácsó and Matsumoto (1997) proved that a Randers metric  $F=\alpha+\beta$  is a Douglas metric if and only if  $\beta$  is a closed 1-form. Matsumoto (1998) obtain that for  $n=\dim M \geq 3$ ,  $F=(\alpha^2+\beta^2)/\alpha$  is a Douglas metric if and only if

$$b_{ij} = \tau((1 + 2b^2)a_{ij} - 3b_i b_j), \tag{2}$$

where  $\tau=\tau(x)$  is a scalar function. In this paper, we shall also prove the following:

**Theorem 2** Let  $F=\alpha \exp(\beta/\alpha)+\varepsilon\beta$  be a Finsler metric on a manifold  $M$ . Then the Douglas tensor of  $F$  vanishes if and only if  $\beta$  is parallel with respect to  $\alpha$ .

It is known that if a Finsler metric is projectively equivalent to a Berwald metric, then it is a Douglas metric. However, it is still an open problem whether or not every Douglas metric is (locally) projectively equivalent to a Berwald metric. We have the following:

**Corollary 1** Let  $F=\alpha \exp(\beta/\alpha)+\varepsilon\beta$  be a Finsler metric on a manifold  $M$ . If  $F$  is the Douglas metric, then

- (1)  $F$  is a Berwald metric;
- (2)  $F$  is a Landsberg metric.

$(\alpha, \beta)$ -METRICS

Finsler metric under our consideration are special  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric, expressed in the following form:

$$F=\alpha\phi(s), s=\beta/\alpha, \tag{3}$$

where  $\alpha=\sqrt{a_{ij}y^i y^j}$  is a Riemannian metric and  $\beta=b_i y^i$  is a 1-form.  $\phi=\phi(s)$  is a  $C^\infty$  positive function on an open interval  $(-b_0, b_0)$  satisfying

$$\phi(s) - s\phi'(s) + (b^2 - s^2)\phi''(s) > 0, |s| \leq b \leq b_0. \tag{4}$$

It is known that  $F$  is a Finsler metric if and only if  $\|\beta_x\|_\alpha < b_0$  for any  $x \in M$ . Let  $G^i$  and  $G_\alpha^i$  denote the spray coefficients of  $F$  and  $\alpha$ , respectively, given by

$$G^i = \frac{g^{ij}}{4} \{ [F^2]_{x^k y^j} y^k - [F^2]_{x^j} \}, \tag{5}$$

$$G_\alpha^i = \frac{a^{ij}}{4} \{ [\alpha^2]_{x^k y^j} y^k - [\alpha^2]_{x^j} \},$$

where  $(g^{ij}) := (g_{ij})^{-1}$ ,  $(g_{ij}) := ([F^2]_{y^j y^i})/2$  and  $(a^{ij}) := (a_{ij})^{-1}$ .

By Eq.(1), we have the following:

**Lemma 1** (Chern and Shen, 2005) The geodesic coefficients  $G^i$  are related to  $G_\alpha^i$  by

$$G^i = G_\alpha^i + \alpha Q s_0^i + J \{-2Q\alpha s_0 + r_{00}\} \frac{y^i}{\alpha} + H \{-2Q\alpha s_0 + r_{00}\} \{b^i - s \frac{y^i}{\alpha}\}, \tag{6}$$

where

$$Q := \frac{\phi'}{\phi - s\phi'},$$

$$J := \frac{\phi'(\phi - s\phi')}{2\phi((\phi - s\phi') + (b^2 - s^2)\phi'')},$$

$$H := \frac{\phi''}{2((\phi - s\phi') + (b^2 - s^2)\phi'')},$$

$s = \beta/\alpha$ , and  $b := \|\beta_x\|_\alpha$ .

**Lemma 2** (Shen and Civi Yildirim, 2005) An  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric  $F=\alpha\phi(s)$ , where  $s=\beta/\alpha$ , is projectively flat on an open subset  $U \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  if and only if

$$(a_{mi}\alpha^2 - y_m y_i)G_\alpha^m + \alpha^3 Q s_{10} + H\alpha \{-2Q\alpha s_0 + r_{00}\} \{b_l \alpha - s y_l\} = 0, \tag{7}$$

where  $y_m = a_{mi} y^i$ .

EXPONENTIAL FINSLER METRIC

In this section, we consider a special  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric in the following form:

$$F = \alpha \exp(\beta / \alpha) + \varepsilon \beta, \tag{8}$$

where  $\alpha = \sqrt{a_{ij}y^i y^j}$  is a Riemannian metric and  $\beta = b_i y^i$  is a 1-form on  $M$ ,  $\varepsilon$  is a constant. Let  $b_0 > 0$  be the largest number such that

$$1 - s + b^2 - s^2 > 0, \quad |s| \leq b < b_0, \tag{9}$$

where  $b_0$  depends on  $\varepsilon$  such that  $\exp(s) + \varepsilon s > 0$ .

**Lemma 3** If  $F = \alpha \exp(\beta / \alpha) + \varepsilon \beta$  is a Finsler metric, then  $b_0 \leq 1$ .

**Proof** If  $F = \alpha \exp(\beta / \alpha) + \varepsilon \beta$  is a Finsler metric, then  $1 - s + b^2 - s^2 > 0, |s| \leq b < b_0$ . Let  $s = b$ , then  $\forall b < b_0, b_0 \leq 1$ .

By Lemma 1,

$$Q := \frac{\alpha(1 + \varepsilon \exp(-\beta / \alpha))}{\alpha - \beta},$$

$$J := \frac{(\exp(\beta / \alpha) + \varepsilon)(\alpha - \beta)\alpha^2}{2(\alpha \exp(\beta / \alpha) + \varepsilon \beta)((1 + b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)},$$

$$H := \frac{\alpha^2}{2((1 + b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)}.$$

**Remark**  $1 + \varepsilon \exp(-\beta / \alpha) \neq 0$ . If  $1 + \varepsilon \exp(-\beta / \alpha) = 0$ , then  $\phi(s) = \exp(s) + \varepsilon s$  is a constant, thus  $F$  is a Riemannian metric. Eq.(7) is reduced to the following equation:

$$(a_{ml}\alpha^2 - y_m y_l)G_\alpha^m + \frac{\alpha^4(1 + \varepsilon \exp(-\beta / \alpha))}{\alpha - \beta} s_{l0}$$

$$- \frac{\alpha^5(1 + \varepsilon \exp(-\beta / \alpha))s_0}{((1 + b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)(\alpha - \beta)} (b_l \alpha - s y_l) \tag{10}$$

$$+ \frac{\alpha^3 r_{00}}{2((1 + b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)} (b_l \alpha - s y_l) = 0.$$

**Lemma 4** If  $(a_{ml}\alpha^2 - y_m y_l)G_\alpha^m = 0$ , then  $\alpha$  is a locally projectively flat.

**Proof** If  $(a_{ml}\alpha^2 - y_m y_l)G_\alpha^m = 0$ , then

$$\alpha^2 a_{ml} G_\alpha^m = y_m G_\alpha^m y_l, \tag{11}$$

then there is a  $\eta = \eta(x, y)$  such that

$$y_m G_\alpha^m = \alpha^2 \eta, \tag{12}$$

we get

$$a_{ml} G_\alpha^m = \eta y_l. \tag{13}$$

Contracting Eq.(13) with  $a^{il}$  yields

$$G_\alpha^i = \eta y^i, \tag{14}$$

thus  $\alpha$  is projectively flat.

**Theorem 3** Let  $F = \alpha \exp(\beta / \alpha) + \varepsilon \beta$  be a Finsler metric on a manifold  $M$ .  $F$  is locally projectively flat if and only if the following conditions hold:

- (1)  $\beta$  is parallel with respect to  $\alpha$ ,
- (2)  $\alpha$  is locally projectively flat. That is,  $\alpha$  is of constant curvature.

**Proof** If  $F$  is projectively flat. We rewrite Eq.(10) as a polynomial in  $y^i$  and  $\alpha$ , which is linear in  $\alpha$ . This gives

$$(\alpha - \beta)((1 + b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)(a_{ml}\alpha^2 - y_m y_l)G_\alpha^m$$

$$+ \alpha^4(1 + \varepsilon \exp(-\beta / \alpha))((1 + b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)s_{l0}$$

$$- \alpha^5(1 + \varepsilon \exp(-\beta / \alpha))(b_l \alpha - s y_l)s_0$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2}\alpha^3(\alpha - \beta)r_{00}(b_l \alpha - s y_l) = 0. \tag{15}$$

**Case 1** Assume that  $\varepsilon \neq 0$ . Contracting Eq.(15) with  $b^l$  yields

$$(\alpha - \beta)((1 + b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)(b_m \alpha^2 - y_m \beta)G_\alpha^m$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2}\alpha^2(\alpha - \beta)(b^2 \alpha^2 - \beta^2)r_{00}$$

$$+ \alpha^4(1 + \varepsilon \exp(-\beta / \alpha))(\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta)s_0 = 0. \tag{16}$$

Namely

$$((1 + b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)(b_m \alpha^2 - y_m \beta)G_\alpha^m + \frac{1}{2}\alpha^2(b^2 \alpha^2$$

$$- \beta^2)r_{00} + (1 + \varepsilon \exp(-\beta / \alpha))\alpha^5 s_0 = 0. \tag{17}$$

Replacing  $y$  with  $-y$ , we get

$$((1 + b^2)\alpha^2 + \alpha\beta - \beta^2)(b_m \alpha^2 - y_m \beta)G_\alpha^m + \frac{1}{2}\alpha^2(b^2 \alpha^2$$

$$- \beta^2)r_{00} - (1 + \varepsilon \exp(-\beta / \alpha))\alpha^5 s_0 = 0. \tag{18}$$

Combining Eqs.(17) and (18), we get

$$2\beta(b_m\alpha^2 - y_m\beta)G_\alpha^m = \alpha^4(2 + \varepsilon \exp(-\beta/\alpha) + \varepsilon \exp(\beta/\alpha)). \quad (19)$$

Using Taylor expansion of  $\exp(\beta/\alpha)$ , we can find that the left side of Eq.(19) is an integral expression in  $y$  and the right side of Eq.(19) is a fractional expression in  $y$ , we get

$$s_0 = 0, (b_m\alpha^2 - y_m\beta)G_\alpha^m = 0. \quad (20)$$

Substituting Eq.(20) back into Eq.(17), we get  $r_{00}=0$ . Thus Eq.(15) becomes

$$(\alpha - \beta)(a_{ml}\alpha^2 - y_m y_l)G_\alpha^m + \alpha^4(1 + \varepsilon \exp(-\beta/\alpha))s_{10} = 0. \quad (21)$$

By the same derivation, we get

$$(a_{ml}\alpha^2 - y_m y_l)G_\alpha^m = 0, s_{10} = 0. \quad (22)$$

By Lemma 4,  $\alpha$  is locally projectively flat. By  $s_{10}=0$  and  $r_{00}=0$ , we get  $b_{ij}=0$ , thus  $\beta$  is parallel with respect to  $\alpha$ .

**Case 2**  $\varepsilon=0$ , Eq.(15) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} &(\alpha - \beta)((1 + b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)(a_{ml}\alpha^2 - y_m y_l)G_\alpha^m \\ &+ \alpha^4((1 + b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)s_{10} - \alpha^5(b_l\alpha - sy_l)s_0 \\ &+ \frac{1}{2}\alpha^3(\alpha - \beta)r_{00}(b_l\alpha - sy_l) = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

Because  $\alpha^{\text{even}}$  is a polynomial in  $y^i$ , then the coefficients of  $\alpha$  and the coefficients of  $\alpha^2$  must be zero. We obtain

$$2(1 + b^2)\alpha^3(a_{ml}\alpha^2 - y_m y_l)G_\alpha^m + \alpha^3 r_{00}(b_l\alpha^2 - \beta y_l) = 2\alpha^5 \beta s_{10}, \quad (24)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &2(-(2 + b^2)\alpha^2\beta + \beta^3)(a_{ml}\alpha^2 - y_m y_l)G_\alpha^m \\ &+ 2((1 + b^2)\alpha^6 - \alpha^4\beta^2)s_{10} \\ &= (2\alpha^4 s_0 + \alpha^2 \beta r_{00})(b_l\alpha^2 - \beta y_l). \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

Eq.(24) $\times(\beta/\alpha)$  yields

$$2(1 + b^2)\alpha^2\beta(a_{ml}\alpha^2 - y_m y_l)G_\alpha^m + \alpha^2 \beta r_{00}(b_l\alpha^2 - \beta y_l) = 2\alpha^4 \beta^2 s_{10}. \quad (26)$$

Contracting Eq.(25) and Eq.(26) with  $b^l$  yields

$$2(1 + b^2)\alpha^2\beta(b_m\alpha^2 - y_m\beta)G_\alpha^m + \alpha^2 \beta r_{00}(b^2\alpha^2 - \beta^2) = 2\alpha^4 \beta^2 s_0, \quad (27)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &2(-(2 + b^2)\alpha^2\beta + \beta^3)(b_m\alpha^2 - y_m\beta)G_\alpha^m \\ &+ 2((1 + b^2)\alpha^6 - \alpha^4\beta^2)s_0 \\ &= (2\alpha^4 s_0 + \alpha^2 \beta r_{00})(b^2\alpha^2 - \beta^2). \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

Eq.(27)+Eq.(28) yields

$$\beta(b_m\alpha^2 - y_m\beta)G_\alpha^m = \alpha^4 s_0. \quad (29)$$

Note that the polynomial  $\alpha^4$  is not divisible by  $\beta$ , Thus  $(b_m\alpha^2 - y_m\beta)G_\alpha^m$  is divisible by  $\alpha^4$ . Therefore, there is a scalar function  $\tau=\tau(x)$  such that

$$(b_m\alpha^2 - y_m\beta)G_\alpha^m = \tau(x)\alpha^4, \quad (30)$$

$$s_0 = \tau(x)\beta. \quad (31)$$

Substituting Eqs.(30) and (31) back into Eq.(27), we get

$$2(1 + b^2)\tau(x)\alpha^6 + \alpha^2 r_{00}(b^2\alpha^2 - \beta^2) = 2\tau(x)\alpha^4 \beta^2,$$

namely

$$r_{00}(b^2\alpha^2 - \beta^2) = 2\tau(x)\alpha^2(\beta^2 - (1 + b^2)\alpha^2). \quad (32)$$

Note that the polynomial  $b^2\alpha^2 - \beta^2$  is not divisible by  $\alpha^2$ , then  $r_{00}$  is divisible by  $\alpha^2$ . Therefore, there is a scalar function  $\lambda=\lambda(x)$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} &r_{00} = \lambda\alpha^2, \\ &\lambda(b^2\alpha^2 - \beta^2) = 2\tau(x)(\beta^2 - (1 + b^2)\alpha^2). \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

Because the polynomial  $b^2\alpha^2 - \beta^2$  is not divisible by  $\beta^2 - (1 + b^2)\alpha^2$ , then  $\lambda=0, \tau=0$ , thus we get  $r_{00}=0, s_0=0$ . Substituting  $r_{00}=0$ , and  $s_0=0$  back into Eqs.(25) and (26), we get

$$\begin{aligned} &(-(2 + b^2)\alpha^2\beta + \beta^3)(a_{ml}\alpha^2 - y_m y_l)G_\alpha^m \\ &+ ((1 + b^2)\alpha^6 - \alpha^4\beta^2)s_{10} = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

$$(1 + b^2)\alpha^2\beta(a_{ml}\alpha^2 - y_m y_l)G_\alpha^m = \alpha^4 \beta^2 s_{10}. \quad (35)$$

Because

$$\begin{vmatrix} -(2+b^2)\alpha^2\beta + \beta^3 & (1+b^2)\alpha^6 - \alpha^4\beta^2 \\ (1+b^2)\alpha^2\beta & -\alpha^4\beta^2 \end{vmatrix} \neq 0,$$

we get  $(a_{mi}\alpha^2 - y_m y_i)G_\alpha^m = 0$  and  $s_{i0} = 0$ .

By Lemma 4,  $\alpha$  is projectively flat. By  $s_{i0} = 0$  and  $r_{00} = 0$ , we get  $b_{ij} = 0$ , thus  $\beta$  is parallel with respect to  $\alpha$ . Conversely, if  $\beta$  is parallel with respect to  $\alpha$  and  $\alpha$  is locally projectively flat, by Lemma 1, we get

$$G^i = G_\alpha^i.$$

Because  $\alpha$  is locally projectively flat, thus  $F$  is locally projectively flat.

$$D_{jkl}^i = 0$$

**Definition 1** Let

$$D_{jkl}^i := \frac{\partial^3}{\partial y^j \partial y^k \partial y^l} (G^i - \frac{1}{n+1} \frac{\partial G^m}{\partial y^m} y^i), \quad (36)$$

$$D := D_{jkl}^i dx^j \otimes \partial_i \otimes dx^k \otimes dx^l.$$

It is easy to verify that  $D$  is a well-defined tensor on  $TM_0$ . We say  $D$  is the Douglas tensor.

The Douglas tensor is a non-Riemannian quantity, namely, if  $F$  is a Riemannian metric, then  $D_{jkl}^i = 0$ . A Finsler metric is called a Douglas metric if  $D_{jkl}^i = 0$ . Study on Douglas metrics will enhance our understanding on the geometric meaning of non-Riemannian quantities.

**Lemma 5**  $D_{jkl}^i = 0$  if and only if  $G^i - \frac{1}{n+1} \frac{\partial G^m}{\partial y^m} y^i =$

$\gamma_{jk}^i(x) y^j y^k$ , for some set of local function  $\gamma_{jk}^i(x)$ .

**Proof** It is easy to verify.

It is known that the Douglas tensor is a projective invariant, namely, if two Finsler metric  $F$  and  $\bar{F}$  are projectively equivalent, that is  $G^i = \bar{G}^i + P y^i$ , where  $P = P(x, y)$  is positively  $y$ -homogeneous of degree one, then the Douglas tensor of  $F$  is the same as that of  $\bar{F}$ . Thus if a Finsler metric is projectively equivalent to a Berwald metric, then it is a Douglas metric. However, it is still an open problem whether or not every

Douglas metric is (locally) projectively equivalent to a Berwald metric.

For  $F = \alpha \exp(\beta/\alpha) + \varepsilon \beta$ , by Lemma 1, denote

$$P = \frac{\alpha^2(\varepsilon + \exp(\beta/\alpha)) - 2\alpha\beta \exp(\beta/\alpha) - \varepsilon\alpha\beta - \varepsilon\beta^2}{2(\varepsilon\beta + \alpha \exp(\beta/\alpha))(1+b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2} \times \left( -2 \frac{\alpha^2(1 + \varepsilon \exp(-\beta/\alpha))}{\alpha - \beta} s_0 + r_{00} \right), \quad (37)$$

$$Q^i = \frac{\alpha^2(1 + \varepsilon \exp(-\beta/\alpha))}{\alpha - \beta} s_0^i - \frac{\alpha^4(1 + \varepsilon \exp(-\beta/\alpha))}{(\alpha - \beta)((1+b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)} s_0 b^i + \frac{\alpha^2}{2((1+b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)} r_{00} b^i. \quad (38)$$

We get a new spray

$$\tilde{G} = y^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} - 2\tilde{G}^i \frac{\partial}{\partial y^i}, \quad (39)$$

where

$$\tilde{G}^i := G_\alpha^i + Q^i. \quad (40)$$

Clearly,  $G$  and  $\tilde{G}$  are projectively equivalent. So we only need to compute the Douglas tensor of  $\tilde{G}$ . We have the following

**Theorem 4** Let  $F = \alpha \exp(\beta/\alpha) + \varepsilon \beta$  be a Finsler metric on a manifold  $M$ . Then the Douglas tensor of  $F$  vanishes if and only if  $\beta$  is parallel with respect to  $\alpha$ .

**Proof** If the Douglas tensor of  $F$  vanishes. By Lemma 5, we get

$$\tilde{G}^i - \frac{1}{n+1} \frac{\partial \tilde{G}^m}{\partial y^m} y^i = \gamma_{jk}^i(x) y^j y^k, \quad (41)$$

for some set of local function  $\gamma_{jk}^i(x)$ .

Substituting Eq.(40) back into Eq.(36), we get

$$\tilde{D}_{jkl}^i := \bar{D}_{jkl}^i + \frac{\partial^3}{\partial y^j \partial y^k \partial y^l} (Q^i - \frac{1}{n+1} \frac{\partial Q^m}{\partial y^m} y^i),$$

where  $\tilde{D}_{jkl}^i$  is the Douglas tensor of  $\tilde{G}$ ,  $\bar{D}_{jkl}^i$  is the Douglas tensor of  $\alpha$ , because  $\alpha$  is a Riemannian metric,  $\bar{D}_{jkl}^i = 0$ . We get

$$Q^i - \frac{1}{n+1} \frac{\partial Q^m}{\partial y^m} y^i = \gamma_{jk}^i(x) y^j y^k. \quad (42)$$

By Eq.(38), we get

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial Q^m}{\partial y^m} &= \frac{\alpha(1 + \varepsilon \exp(-\beta/\alpha))}{(\alpha - \beta)^2} s_0 \\ &- \frac{\alpha^2(b^2\alpha^2 - \beta^2)(\alpha + 2\beta)(1 + \varepsilon \exp(-\beta/\alpha))}{(\alpha - \beta)((1+b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)^2} s_0 \\ &+ \frac{\alpha^2}{2((1+b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)} \left( \frac{Y}{(\alpha - \beta)^2} s_0 + r_{00} \right) \\ &+ \frac{(b^2\alpha^2 - \beta^2)(\alpha + 2\beta)}{2((1+b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)^2} r_{00}, \end{aligned} \quad (43)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} Y &= 2\beta^2 - \alpha\beta - b^2\alpha^2 \\ &+ \varepsilon(\beta^2 - b^2\alpha\beta + \beta^3/\alpha - \alpha\beta)\exp(-\beta/\alpha). \end{aligned}$$

Substituting Eqs.(38) and (43) back into Eq.(42), we get

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{\alpha^2(1 + \varepsilon \exp(-\beta/\alpha))}{\alpha - \beta} s_0^i \\ &- \frac{\alpha^4(1 + \varepsilon \exp(-\beta/\alpha))}{2(\alpha - \beta)((1+b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)} s_0 b^i \\ &+ \frac{\alpha^2}{2((1+b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)} r_{00} b^i \\ &- \frac{\alpha(\alpha + \varepsilon\beta \exp(-\beta/\alpha))}{(n+1)(\alpha - \beta)^2} s_0 y^i \\ &+ \frac{\alpha^2(b^2\alpha^2 - \beta^2)(\alpha + 2\beta)(1 + \varepsilon \exp(-\beta/\alpha))}{2(n+1)(\alpha - \beta)((1+b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)^2} s_0 y^i \\ &- \frac{(b^2\alpha^2 - \beta^2)(\alpha + 2\beta)}{2(n+1)((1+b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)^2} r_{00} y^i \\ &- \frac{\alpha^2}{2(n+1)((1+b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)} (Y s_0 / (\alpha - \beta)^2 \\ &+ 2r_{m_0} b^m) y^i = \gamma_{jk}^i(x) y^j y^k. \end{aligned} \quad (44)$$

Contracting Eq.(44) with  $b_i$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{(n+1)\alpha^2(1 + \varepsilon \exp(-\beta/\alpha))}{\alpha - \beta} s_0 \\ &- \frac{(n+1)\alpha^4(1 + \varepsilon \exp(-\beta/\alpha))}{(\alpha - \beta)((1+b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)} s_0 b^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &+ \frac{(n+1)\alpha^2}{((1+b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)} r_{00} b^2 \\ &- 2 \frac{\alpha\beta(\alpha + \varepsilon\beta \exp(-\beta/\alpha))}{(\alpha - \beta)^2} s_0 \\ &+ \frac{\alpha^2\beta(b^2\alpha^2 - \beta^2)(\alpha + 2\beta)(1 + \varepsilon \exp(-\beta/\alpha))}{(n+1)(\alpha - \beta)((1+b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)^2} s_0 \\ &- \frac{(b^2\alpha^2 - \beta^2)(\alpha + 2\beta)\beta}{((1+b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)^2} r_{00} \\ &- \frac{\alpha^2\beta}{((1+b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)} (Y s_0 / (\alpha - \beta)^2 + 2r_{m_0} b^m) \\ &= 2(n+1)b_i \gamma_{jk}^i(x) y^j y^k. \end{aligned} \quad (45)$$

Denote  $T = b_i \gamma_{jk}^i(x) y^j y^k$ .

**Case 1** Assume  $\varepsilon \neq 0$ , with the same discussion in Theorem 1, we get  $s_0 = 0$ .

Substituting  $s_0 = 0$  back into Eq.(45), we get

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{(n+1)b^2\alpha^2}{((1+b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)} r_{00} - \frac{(b^2\alpha^2 - \beta^2)(\alpha + 2\beta)\beta}{((1+b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)^2} r_{00} \\ &- \frac{2\alpha^2\beta r_{m_0} b^m}{((1+b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)} = 2(n+1)T. \end{aligned} \quad (46)$$

From Eq.(45)  $\times ((1+b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} &((n+1)(b^4 + b^2)r_{00} - 2(n+1)T(1+b^2)^2 \\ &- 2\beta(1+b^2)r_{m_0} b^m) \alpha^4 + (-2(n+1)b^2 r_{00} \beta \\ &+ 4(n+1)T\beta + 4b^2(n+1)T\beta + 2\beta^2 r_{m_0} b^m) \alpha^3 \\ &+ ((4b^2 + 2)(1+n)T\beta^2 - (n+3)b^2 r_{00} \beta^2 \\ &+ 2\beta^3 r_{m_0} b^m) \alpha^2 + (-4(n+1)T\beta^3 + \beta^3 r_{00}) \alpha \\ &- 2((n+1)T - r_{00}) \beta^4 = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (47)$$

(1) If  $r_{00}$  and  $T$  is divisible by  $\alpha^2$ , namely, if there are two scalar functions  $\lambda = \lambda(x)$  and  $\tau = \tau(x)$  such that

$$r_{00} = \lambda(x)\alpha^2, \quad (48)$$

$$T = \tau(x)\alpha^2, \quad (49)$$

then

$$r_{m_0} b^m = 2\lambda(x)\beta. \quad (50)$$

Substituting Eqs.(48)~(50) back into Eq.(47), we get

$$A_1\alpha^6 + A_2\alpha^5\beta + A_3\alpha^4\beta^2 + A_4\alpha^3\beta^3 + A_5\alpha^2\beta^4 = 0,$$

where

$$A_1 = -2(n+1)(b^2+1)^2\tau(x) + (n+1)b^2(b^2+1),$$

$$A_2 = 4(n+1)(b^2+1)\tau(x) - (2+n)b^2\lambda(x),$$

$$A_3 = 2(n+1)(2b^2+1)\tau(x) - (4+(7+n)b^2)\lambda(x),$$

$$A_4 = -4(n+1)\tau(x) + 5\lambda(x),$$

$$A_5 = -2(n+1)\tau(x) + 6\lambda(x).$$

We get  $(A_1\alpha^2 + A_3\beta^2)\alpha^2 = -A_5\beta^4$ .

Because  $\beta^2$  is not divisible by  $\alpha^2$  and  $A_1\alpha^2 + A_3\beta^2$ , we get  $A_5=0$ . For the same reason, we get  $A_1=A_2=A_3=A_4=0$ . By  $A_4=A_5=0$ , we get  $\lambda=\tau=0$ . Thus  $r_{00}=0, T=0, r_{m0}b^m=0$ , substituting back into Eq.(44), we get

$$\frac{\alpha^2(1 + \varepsilon \exp(-\beta/\alpha))}{\alpha - \beta} s_0^i = 0.$$

Because  $1 + \varepsilon \exp(-\beta/\alpha) \neq 0$ , thus  $s_0^i = 0$ . By  $s_0^i = 0$  and  $r_{00} = 0$ ,  $\beta$  is parallel with respect to  $\alpha$ .

(2)  $r_{00}$  is not divisible by  $\alpha^2$  and  $T$  is divisible by  $\alpha^2$ , namely, there is a scalar function  $\tau = \tau(x)$  such that

$$T = \tau(x)\alpha^2. \tag{51}$$

Substituting Eq.(51) back into Eq.(47), we get

$$B_1\alpha^6 + B_2\alpha^5 + B_3\alpha^4 + B_4\alpha^3 + B_5\alpha^2 + B_6\alpha + 2\beta^4 r_{00} = 0,$$

where  $B_1, B_2, \dots, B_6$  are homogeneous in  $y$  of degree 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 respectively. Thus

$$(B_1\alpha^4 + B_3\alpha^2 + B_5)\alpha^2 = -2\beta^4 r_{00}.$$

Because  $\beta^2$  is not divisible by  $\alpha^2$ , thus  $r_{00}$  is divisible by  $\alpha^2$ . This contradicts our assumption.

(3)  $T$  is not divisible by  $\alpha^2$ ,  $r_{00}$  is divisible by  $\alpha^2$ , namely, there is a scalar function  $\lambda = \lambda(x)$  such that

$$r_{00} = \lambda(x)\alpha^2. \tag{52}$$

By the same method used in (2), we find that (3) is impossible.

(4)  $T$  and  $r_{00}$  are not divisible by  $\alpha^2$ .

By Eq.(46), we get

$$\{[(n+1)b^4 r_{00} - 2(n+1)T(1+b^2)^2 + (n+1)b^2 r_{00} - 2\beta \cdot (1+b^2)r_{m0}b^m]\alpha^2 + (4b^2+2)(n+1)T\beta^2 - (n+3)b^2 r_{00}\beta^2 + 2\beta^3 r_{m0}b^m\}\alpha^2 = 2((n+1)T - r_{00})\beta^4, \tag{53}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(-2(n+1)b^2 r_{00} + 4(n+1)T + 4b^2(n+1)T + 2\beta r_{m0}b^m\right)\alpha^2 \\ & = [4(n+1)T - r_{00}]\beta^2. \end{aligned} \tag{54}$$

Because  $\beta^2$  is not divisible by  $\alpha^2$ ,  $(n+1)T - r_{00}$  and  $4(n+1)T - r_{00}$  are divisible by  $\alpha^2$ . Therefore, there are two scalar functions  $\phi = \phi(x)$  and  $\varphi = \varphi(x)$  such that

$$(n+1)T - r_{00} = \phi\alpha^2,$$

$$4(n+1)T - r_{00} = \varphi\alpha^2,$$

then  $T = \frac{\varphi - \phi}{3(n+1)}\alpha^2$ . This contradicts our assumption.

**Case 2**  $\varepsilon=0$ , by Eq.(45), we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{(n+1)\alpha^2}{\alpha - \beta} s_0 - \frac{(n+1)\alpha^4}{(\alpha - \beta)((1+b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)} s_0 b^2 \\ & + \frac{(n+1)\alpha^2}{((1+b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)} r_{00} b^2 - 2\frac{\alpha^2\beta}{(\alpha - \beta)^2} s_0 \\ & + \frac{\alpha^2\beta(b^2\alpha^2 - \beta^2)(\alpha + 2\beta)}{(n+1)(\alpha - \beta)((1+b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)^2} s_0 \\ & - \frac{\alpha^2\beta}{((1+b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)} \left( \frac{Y}{(\alpha - \beta)^2} s_0 + 2r_{m0}b^m \right) \\ & - \frac{(b^2\alpha^2 - \beta^2)(\alpha + 2\beta)\beta}{((1+b^2)\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta - \beta^2)^2} r_{00} = 2(n+1)T, \end{aligned} \tag{55}$$

where  $Y = 2\beta^2 - \alpha\beta - b^2\alpha^2$ .

(1) If  $r_{00}$  and  $T$  is divisible by  $\alpha^2$ , namely, if there are two scalar functions  $\lambda = \lambda(x)$  and  $\tau = \tau(x)$  such that

$$r_{00} = \lambda(x)\alpha^2 \tag{56}$$

$$T = \tau(x)\alpha^2, \tag{57}$$

then

$$r_{m0}b^m = 2\lambda(x)\beta. \tag{58}$$

Substituting Eqs.(56)~(58) back into Eq.(55), we get

$$\begin{aligned} & C_1\alpha^8 + (C_2s_0 + C_3\beta)\alpha^7 + (C_4\beta s_0 + C_5\beta^2)\alpha^6 \\ & + (C_6\beta^2 s_0 + C_7\beta^3)\alpha^5 + (C_8\beta^3 s_0 + C_9\beta^4)\alpha^4 \end{aligned}$$

$$+(C_{10}\beta^4s_0 + C_{11}\beta^5)\alpha^3 + (C_{12}\beta^5s_0 + C_{13}\beta^6)\alpha^2 = 0,$$

where  $C_1, C_2, \dots, C_{13}$  are homogeneous polynomials in  $y$  of degree 0. Especially,

$$\begin{aligned} C_6 &= -2n - 7 - 6b^2, \\ C_7 &= 4(n+1)(1+b^2)\tau - (13+(n+12)b^2)\lambda, \\ C_8 &= -6n + 6b^2 - 3 - 2nb^2, \\ C_9 &= (8+(n+7)b^2)\lambda - 4(n+1)(2+b^2)\tau, \\ C_{10} &= 2n + 7, \\ C_{11} &= 7\lambda, \\ C_{12} &= 2(n-1), \\ C_{13} &= 2(n+1)\tau - 6\lambda. \end{aligned} \tag{59}$$

Because  $\alpha^{\text{even}}$  is a polynomial in  $y^i$ , We obtain

$$\begin{aligned} C_1\alpha^8 + (C_4\beta s_0 + C_5\beta^2)\alpha^6 + (C_8\beta^3s_0 + C_9\beta^4)\alpha^4 \\ + (C_{12}\beta^5s_0 + C_{13}\beta^6)\alpha^2 = 0, \\ (C_2s_0 + C_3\beta)\alpha^7 + (C_6\beta^2s_0 + C_7\beta^3)\alpha^5 \\ + (C_{10}\beta^4s_0 + C_{11}\beta^5)\alpha^3 = 0. \end{aligned} \tag{60}$$

By Eq.(60), we get

$$\begin{aligned} (C_1\alpha^4 + (C_4\beta s_0 + C_5\beta^2)\alpha^2 + (C_8\beta^3s_0 + C_9\beta^4))\alpha^2 \\ = -(C_{12}s_0 + C_{13}\beta)\beta^5. \end{aligned}$$

Because  $\beta^2$  is not divisible by  $\alpha^2$ , we get

$$C_{12}s_0 + C_{13}\beta = 0. \tag{61}$$

For the same reason, we get

$$C_6s_0 + C_7\beta = C_8s_0 + C_9\beta = C_{10}s_0 + C_{11}\beta = 0. \tag{62}$$

By Eqs.(61) and (62), we get

$$\begin{aligned} (-2n - 7 - 6b^2)s_0 + \{4(n+1)(1+b^2)\tau \\ - [13+(n+12)b^2]\lambda\}\beta = 0, \end{aligned} \tag{63}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (-6n + 6b^2 - 3 - 2nb^2)s_0 + \{[8+(n+7)b^2]\lambda \\ - 4(n+1)(2+b^2)\tau\}\beta = 0, \end{aligned} \tag{64}$$

$$(2n+7)s_0 + 7\lambda\beta = 0, \tag{65}$$

$$(n-1)s_0 + ((n+1)\tau - 3\lambda)\beta = 0, \tag{66}$$

By Eqs.(65) and (66), we obtain:

$$\lambda = -\frac{2n+7}{7} \frac{s_0}{\beta}, \quad s_0 = -\frac{13(n+1)\tau\beta}{13n+14}. \tag{67}$$

Substituting Eq.(67) back into Eq.(63), we get  $((4b^2-6)n-21)\tau\beta=0$ . Because  $b<1$ ,  $((4b^2-6)n-21)\neq 0$ , thus  $\tau=0$ . Substituting  $\tau=0$  back into these equations, we obtain  $\lambda=0$  and  $r_{00}=0$ , then  $\beta$  is parallel with respect to  $\alpha$ . If one of  $r_{00}$  and  $T$  is not divisible by  $\alpha^2$  or  $T$  and  $r_{00}$  are not divisible by  $\alpha^2$ , with the same discussion in Case 1, we get that  $\beta$  is parallel with respect to  $\alpha$ .

Conversely, if  $\beta$  is parallel with respect to  $\alpha$ , by Lemma 1, we get  $G^i = G_\alpha^i$ . Because  $\alpha$  is a Riemannian metric,  $D_{jkl}^i = 0$ .

**Theorem 5** (Shen, 2004) For an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric  $F = \alpha\phi(\beta/\alpha)$  on a manifold of dimension  $n \geq 3$ , the following hold

- (1)  $F$  is a Landsberg metric;
- (2)  $F$  is a Berwald metric;
- (3)  $\beta$  is parallel with respect to  $\alpha$ .

By Theorem 4 and Theorem 5, we have

**Corollary 2**  $F = \alpha \exp(\beta/\alpha) + \epsilon\beta$  is a Finsler metric on a manifold  $M$ . If  $F$  is the Douglas metric, then

- (1)  $F$  is a Berwald metric;
- (2)  $F$  is a Landsberg metric.


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